

# QUEENS BOROUGH WORKSHOP

## REPORTBACK

### I. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS PER ISSUE

*INFO: From Question Canvas, Issue Areas Poster, Note taker Template, Large pad Discussion, Represent Your Community*

#### **EQUITY**

**Support and programs for underserved/disadvantaged communities – *Frequency: medium***

- Specific communities mentioned: senior citizens, young children, teens, homeless vets, hospitalized, undocumented, African Americans, prisoners
- Support for international students in obtaining work visas
- Availability of programs in all languages
- Better accessibility of programs for the disabled
- “I would fund it to programs for deaf people. That way they will be hear and notice more. It will be an awesome contribution. They will be able to express their feelings, emotions and perspectives of how they see the world.” – Doris, Artist
- “Artists working with the hospitalized... art heals!” – Pat, Works in Arts and Culture
- “Organizations will discriminate among groups which have more capability and power”

**Equitable distribution of funds and support across all neighborhoods and boroughs with a strong emphasis on smaller organizations – *Frequency: high***

- More funding for South Jamaica organizations and cultural institutions
- More budget for smaller institutions and support for small organizations
- DCLA should fund by population area
- Queens diversity and happenings are underrepresented in media
- City supported facilities in ALL neighborhoods
- Equal distribution of cultural activities in all neighborhoods (beyond LIC and Flushing)
- “Equity is to share-all this needs to be shared.” – From Notes
- “Cultural options in Manhattan are not welcoming to non-Manhattan residents”

**Encourage diversity and create/support programs that cater to local communities and celebrate different cultures. Queens’s identity should be used as an asset to promote arts and culture and vice versa. – *Frequency: high***

- More awareness in food venues of food restrictions/religious observance
- “Some cultures feel lack of acknowledgement, lack of respect, and lots of scrutiny”
- People are more likely to attend cultural institutions/events if they feel connected to them. Art programs and events should be reflective of their communities. – Form Notes

- Queens should rebrand to celebrate its identity
- “Part of the charm in queens is how discombobulated the borough is” – From Notes
- Use queens diversity to promote the arts and promote integration. Make it stronger.
- Celebrate diversity through food, through a multicultural festival. “Food carts from all over the world”
- Promote exposure to different cultures
- Open mic/ Murals, parades, block parties, and other activities that showcase Queen’s hidden culture outside conventional institutions
- Visual storytelling programs of all neighborhoods

## ACCESS

### **Better distribution of information and outreach about events and organizations – *Frequency: high***

- More information about what cultural activities are going on.
- A Centralized comprehensive data base should be available. A one stop shop. An App. A resource guide
- Share information in all languages.
- Make an effort to include smaller grassroots events/organizations. Go beyond LIC/Astoria/Flushing
- Link Kiosks could be used for arts and culture outreach
- Artwork at bus stops and subways to represent every zip code and reach out massively. Could be interactive to keep people busy while they wait.
- Have public ambassadors/trainers to reach out and engage the community
- Use social media to communicate
- Use signage to build art districts
- “So much available but not visible” – Ray, CUNY

### **Transportation is a major issue for accessing arts and Culture – *Frequency: medium***

- Queens is so spread out. Transportation is very difficult. It is expensive, and many have to travel long distances to reach cultural activities.
- Cut-off areas should collaborate with more established organizations in queens.
- Large organizations should make an effort to bring programs to isolated neighborhoods
- There should be shuttles among cultural organizations
- Field trips for children to go out of their neighborhoods

### **The price of attending cultural events and visiting arts and culture institutions is prohibitive – *Frequency: low***

- Transparent admission policies (so people know when free/suggested donation is in place)
- IDNYC and free days at museums are helpful
- Voucher program for museums. (If you visit one, they will give you a voucher for another)

## **SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT**

**Art can be used as a tool to bring people together – *Frequency: medium***

- Mentorship programs to bridge the generational gap
- Large community art projects to keep from feeling isolated in New York
- Programs where renowned artists do artwork with the community
- Inter neighborhood collaboration to integrate people across the borough
- Use music to gather people
- There is not much inter-cultural interaction
- Technology is reducing the amount of socializing. Engagement needs to be online AND in person.

## **AFFORDABILITY**

**Artists are struggling with the cost of materials and space for living, working, and showcasing their work. Affordable solutions are an urgent need – *Frequency: high***

- Libraries, schools, community gardens, and empty spaces can be used as free space for artists
- Incentivize developers and building owners to provide affordable space for artists (through public policy or programs where artists give back through time/activities/open studio events).
- Arts education in exchange for space
- Rising Rent and Gentrification
- Overall lack of community space
- Price excludes a variety of voices
- Rising Prices in Ridgewood pose a challenge

**Artists need easier and better access to funding – *Frequency: low***

- Paid Internships for art students
- More grants for young artists
- Workshops for accounting, grant writing, fundraising and to connect non-conventional artists with funding. Organizations need knowledge on how to raise money and how and what to access.

## **EDUCATION**

**There is a need for a stronger/more comprehensive arts program in the curriculum in all schools – *Frequency: medium***

- Children should be exposed to arts and culture early
- Arts Education should be essential in curriculum
- City wide arts programs implemented in all high schools
- Arts Afterschool programs (more in corona!)
- More in-depth engagement programs

- Affordable summer camps

#### **Need for better trained arts educators – *Frequency: low***

- Art instruction training for teachers

#### **Create partnerships between schools and art institutions – *Frequency: low***

- Create policy for art organizations to partner more with schools
- Children should visit cultural institutions across all boroughs to promote cross-pollination, cultural diversity, and integration. Get children out of their neighborhoods!

### **ART IN THE PUBLIC SPACE**

#### **Use art in the public space to promote cultural diversity and community engagement – *Frequency: low***

- Murals, street-fairs, walking tours, and street performances provide public engagement opportunities
- “Community World’s Fair” to take over the public space
- Use competitions for public artworks that highlight diversity

#### **Art in open spaces – *Frequency: low***

- More public art
- Public Parks are assets for cultural activities like concerts or chess playing
- Large institutions can offer parking lots for art interventions

### **CITYWIDE COORDINATION**

#### **Collaboration between city agencies – *Frequency: low***

- More collaboration between city agencies and grassroots groups
- Large institutions should partner with small neighborhood organizations to get in-depth insight into communities and use their resources to amplify the local
- Community boards need art committees

### **NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER**

#### **Local artists and institutions should be supported to avoid displacement and gentrification – *Frequency: high***

- Don’t bring in big chain stores
- Subsidies for locally owned/independent businesses.
- Strengthen existing community groups and mom & pop shops. (LIC is removing many mom & pop shops).
- Local Artists should get priority for public art

- “5-points was a safe haven”
- “Raw and cheap space were what attracted artists to LIC / Williamsburg, now they are struggling” – From notes.

**Preserve historic character of certain neighborhoods – *Frequency: low***

- “We should hold developers up to a standard” there should be an element of old/existing when building new
- Lack of Historic Preservation, certain cultures get lost. More education/exposure to traditions
- “Preserve history and character of older buildings, manage spread of gentrification to keep neighborhood character! I love queens!” – Connie, New Yorker

# BROOKLYN BOROUGH WORKSHOP

## REPORTBACK

### I. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS PER ISSUE

*INFO: From Question Canvas, Issue Areas Poster, Note taker Template, Large pad Discussion, Represent Your Community*

#### **EQUITY, ACCESS & INCLUSION**

**Create programs that focus on disadvantaged populations/underserved communities – *Frequency: high***

- Populations/communities mentioned: Children with special needs, low-income population, undocumented residents, institutions of color, NYCHA residents
- Give equal weight to ideas from less established people
- Sign language interpreters
- Accessibility resources for the disabled everywhere

**Promote diversity by celebrating different cultures, ideas, generations, etc. addressing the different needs that this diversity entails, and ensuring their participation in various levels and sectors of arts and culture – *Frequency: high***

- “Workshops on sensitivity and awareness of different people and culture” – Maria, works in arts & culture
- An advisory board should be diverse- shown as an example of inclusion and diversity (diverse in age and race).
- “Que cada persona de cada país pueda compartir las maneras de expresión artística y las tradiciones y costumbres de su país de origen” – Julian, Artist
- Help overcome language barriers
- Create funding opportunities for diverse organizations and those that promote diversity
- “Create programs that promote the idea that everyone has creativity inside them, that everyone can be an artist”
- More events related to my culture like Dance Africa or International African Arts Festival
- Policies cannot be general but unique to each community
- Interaction between neighborhoods would help people from different backgrounds feel more comfortable

**Encourage and ensure public participation in decision making and start inclusive conversations on arts and culture – *Frequency: medium***

- “Community members must be the drivers of service. This must be the start of the process.”
- Bring the community into the arts education planning process.
- “What gets valued/considered “great art”?” – Meropi works in arts & culture.
- Public input in curating/programming. Curatorial labs.

- Bring community concerns to the forefront. Ask the locals! Bottom-up
- More conversation and action about equity and access.

**Ensure an equitable distribution of funds and support throughout boroughs, neighborhoods and communities. Strong focus on small organizations with limited access to resources – *Frequency: high***

- Transparency in distribution of funds. Civic awareness. Accountability. Open source data. Follow projects to execution.
- Map resources to establish a relationship with income
- More equitable distribution of funds concerning CIG's vs. others
- Focus on long-time community hub spaces and organizations in underserved areas
- Collaboration between big and small institutions
- Park Slope is well-funded. Let's focus on East NY/South Brooklyn. Clinton Hill/Ft Greene has a lot - it would be great if other neighborhoods had as much.
- A museum in Far Rockaway to celebrate the rich cultural history of African diaspora.

**Invest and support innovation, unconventional arts & culture sectors, and emerging artists (and ensure that all the sectors of arts are being supported equitably) – *Frequency: low***

- “New Performance art grant: An annual large-scale grant (^ \$100,000) without an application (like Nobel, Guggenheim, MacArthur, etc.) for a new and original production of performance art (theater, dance, classical/art music, etc.). The jury surreptitiously attends many performances of new pieces, especially badly funded and experimental ones, and picks one production to give the grant to. The winner gets the \$\$ and logistical support from the City for a tour to free performances of the piece across the city, especially in places like public parks and community spaces in working-class neighborhoods.”
- Specific arts & culture sectors mentioned were: theater dance, film, TV, music

**Spread information about arts and culture events/activities in a comprehensive, cohesive platform/location/interface – *Frequency: high***

- A public database, a combined directory, an easy to navigate website with a map and a calendar, a message board, a community bulletin board
- Local Community Ambassador who informs the community,
- Focus on info that helps explore “off the beaten path” sites/events
- Communicate information in a way everyone can understand it
- Include public spaces in database

**Cost of cultural activities is a barrier for access. Create a greater amount of free/inexpensive accessible activities – *Frequency: medium***

- Free concerts across the city
- More affordable museums
- Going to shows is a luxury
- More free spaces for community
- Costs/Crowds. Long lines in places/events that are extremely popular. We need more offer.
- Don't privatize public assets.

**Incentivize more interaction between cultural organizations and the community and between organizations themselves. Build a strong network that includes the community – *Frequency: low***

- Letting people who are not professional artists participate

**Practicalities like transportation and scheduling are a big access barrier – *Frequency: low***

- Later hours would make it more accessible
- Choose location by subway line to get different communities-larger more diverse communities.

## **SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT**

**Arts and culture are a powerful tool to bring people and communities together. Use arts and culture to fight for social justice, build a better city, and celebrate identity. Arts and culture are key in healthy communities – *Frequency: medium***

- Social capital programs that bring people together through the arts and across community lines
- Make intergenerational, multidisciplinary, multi-cultural programs
- “Una red formada por miembros de diferentes camunida des culturas y lenguajes donde cada persona sienta que tiene un lugar”
- Art draws people together - all people should feel drawn-in that it is for ALL.
- “Meaningful arts education makes people more empathetic contributing citizens”
- Artists Job Corps Program that would provide opportunities for community based organizations, centers and service agencies to collaborate and hire local artists and cultural organizers to help advance social justice issues, change hearts and minds and integrate arts and culture into their organizations.
- To find ways to bridge the divide between the arts and other fields, such a STEM law, businesses, etc. so that children (and all people generally) could understand that our society cannot function with either one or the other, and that because they are mutually reinforcing, absorbing equal importance to them is beneficial to us all.
- Value of the arts goes beyond financial/economic value
- Arts is the best sector for social inclusion
- “They are a great place to meet neighbors, engage in laughter and learn about other people cultures”
- Arts and culture are pillars of NYC identity and economy.

**Arts and culture can be a means to address sustainability issues, and should also be held accountable for sustainable practices – *Frequency: low***

- Sustainability needs to be addressed.
- Invest in sustainable art projects; economically and environmentally aware
- Creative recycling/repurposing

## **AFFORDABILITY**

**Artists need less economic and structural restraints for developing their full creative potential –**

*Frequency: low*

- Funding should be more open ended to allow for more freedom and exploration in each artist's path.
- There could be a stipend for artists so that they can create on their terms. A few thousand dollars a year could absolutely change an artist's life. Discover new talents.

**Artists' work is not recognized economically. Raise awareness on art's economic value – *Frequency: low***

- Pay for artistic work. Ensure that institutions pay artist fees. Enforce fair compensation.
- Stipends for artists
- No more free work. Cooperation between artists. No more favors, pay fees for work.

**Artists need to have access to benefits/support outside of the conventional structures – *Frequency: medium***

- Programs that give artists access to liability insurance, utilities, operating support, unemployment benefits, more importantly healthcare.
- Organize for collective bargaining

**Assist artists in acquiring funding, securing grants. Connect them to sources and make grant process easier. Strong focus on emerging artists with less knowledge/resources – *Frequency: high***

- Bridge corporate giving and the arts
- Loosen grant restrictions and make guidelines more flexible, expand threshold of requirements, easier grant procedures, loosen bureaucracy, more rolling deadlines
- Financial literacy is key for young people. Train in grant writing and other financial resources
- Multi-year funding is key so organizations can plan long-term
- More funds for overhead/operating costs
- Make creative financial structures targeted to artists' stability

**Affordability of space for live/work/showcase and materials/supplies is a priority – *Frequency: high***

- Space supply does not meet the demand
- City sponsored artist residences
- Live-work cooperatives
- Short term leases
- Subsidized affordable studio spaces
- Tax people who own property, not the residents (Paris model)
- Commercial rent control
- Partner with developers to come up with space solutions. Give incentives! Designate units for artists (especially in new developments in cultural districts)
- Enhance city owned spaces as arts/culture hubs. Use as performance space in off-hours: Libraries, schools, NYCHA community centers
- Incubator spaces for emerging artists
- Help artists purchase property (could be shared)

- Work/present space that is for public use

#### **Space considerations – *Frequency: low***

- Flexible, movable space for citizens to imagine, remix and create. Nontraditional spaces enhance creativity.
- More art spaces that are communal, mixed used and community spaces. Less exclusive, more easily accessible and above all, welcoming.
- Spaces with storage
- Space equipped with supplies (film, cameras, projectors, etc.)
- There is a need for industrial art spaces
- Space that is good for both rehearsal and performances
- Spaces that enable to share resources

### **ARTS EDUCATION**

#### **Change is more effective if implemented in education. Especially in early years – *Frequency: low***

- Cultural equity starts in schools
- Schools are a great equalizer
- Work with art schools to prepare students for alternative economies in the arts
- early education to create pipeline for future art

#### **There is a need for better trained and better paid arts educators – *Frequency: low***

- Arts education has been de-professionalized. A teaching artist doesn't have the depth of training that a certified art teacher has. They also aren't paid enough to do their job properly.
- There is a need for more personalized attention. Smaller classes.
- Educators should be trained to promote cultural equity
- Increase arts education budgets, pay arts educators and consultants a living wage, and invest in their training.

#### **A more comprehensive and strong arts education needs to be implemented in the curriculum throughout the city – *Frequency: medium***

- Art and Music should be core subjects in every school
- Students should be given a large range of artistic avenues. More nature education, Drafting/drawing, traditions, music, theater, gardening, etc.
- Art needs to be integrated with science, technology
- Arts for all NYC public school kids. K-12 in every school.
- Afterschool programs
- Continuing education
- Programs that connect children to culture in the city, to non-profits that give students access to new perspectives, places, ideas. Encourage field trips that expose children to diversity.
- Involve entire family in arts education programs

**Connect schools with local artists/organizations to form bond with community and provide jobs for artists – *Frequency: low***

- “This folds artists into the fabric of the neighborhood”
- Connect schools with community organizations ex: community gardens

**Communicate among schools to create a network of support – *Frequency: low***

- Share resources among schools

## **ART IN THE PUBLIC SPACE**

**Bring arts and culture to public parks and green spaces. Use parks to provide facilities for artists and cultural organizations, to host cultural activities, to generate deeper connections with nature, and to stress on sustainability issues – *Frequency: high***

- Use parks to understand our place within the natural world.
- “Understand beauty of green spaces and the necessity for it in our urban lives.” – Keith, Artist
- Make NYC parks' spaces and buildings available. Specifically - Picnic House Prospect Park, Park Bathhouse in Fort Greene Park, Prospect Park Parade Ground Bowling Green Cottage.
- Use parks for dancing classes: Salsa, Square, Samba, African, Brazilian. All levels, all ages.
- Garden Recitals
- Community gardens that bridge communities
- More budget and staff for parks
- Every child should have access to a park and should be able to help in a garden.
- Libraries and gardens partnerships

**Create more public space and public cultural events throughout the city, in all neighborhoods, and accessible to everyone – *Frequency: low***

- Arts, design and culture temporary public pop-up installations
- Outdoor movies with open captions
- More open public space
- We need more indoor public space for winter!

**Strengthen the Percent for Arts Program – *Frequency: low***

- Developers need to be held accountable for percent for the arts.

## **CITYWIDE COORDINATION**

**DCLA should work together with different agencies to better address issues and find cohesive solutions to problems – *Frequency: low***

- NYCHA: More arts and culture, more funding
- Infrastructure: More coordination on infrastructure investments and community parks
- Federal Government: Does cultural plan protect during new federal administration?

- Labor: Monitor working conditions for arts and culture professionals. “So many amazing organizations are toxic work environments”.

## NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER

Preserve arts communities in their neighborhoods and protect them from gentrification/displacement –

*Frequency: high*

- Threats of gentrification:
  - Gentrification/development is making places overwhelmingly white; threatening existing businesses; destroying neighborhood culture; making neighborhood character disappear; threatening artists with displacement; putting cultural institutions at risk; pricing out local venues; disrupting sense of place; markets cultural life, then push artists out
  - “Displacement destroys culture” – New Yorker
  - Places mentioned: 5points, the chain, Bed-stuy community gardens, Bushwick
- Use Regulation and city programs to protect existing residents, buildings and organizations
  - Use zoning and major policy changes to fight gentrification.
  - We need an anti-displacement strategy that works-not public housing.
  - Aid in rents for existing residents based on how long they have been there
  - Artist Public Housing across the city.
  - Commercial rent control
  - No more chain stores
  - We need more local venues for performing arts, small and accessible
  - Hyper-local strategy to keep what is already there rather than parachuting new organizations
- Work with developers to mitigate impact
  - Implement cultural impact studies (like environmental impact studies) for all major developments.
  - Partner with developers-public/private parties

# MANHATTAN BOROUGH WORKSHOP

## REPORTBACK

### I. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS PER ISSUE

*INFO: From Question Canvas, Issue Areas Poster, Note taker Template, Large pad Discussion, Represent Your Community*

#### **EQUITY, ACCESS & INCLUSION**

**More programs, funding, support, and access for underserved/disadvantaged populations – *Frequency: high***

- Communities/populations mentioned: disabled, mentally ill, immigrants, homeless, seniors, black, Latino, refugees, low-income, NYCHA residents
- Language interpreters in events
- Closed captioning in movies, TV, etc.
- The creation of a cultural equity investments fund that reinvests the city's art generated tourism income in the communities of color.
- Cultural center inclusive of all styles and people

**More engagement in the arts and participation in decision making – *Frequency: medium***

- Encourage cultural engagement and participatory programs
- Create a governmental task force of art engagement; a decentralized structure that empowers; participatory culture in the Department of Cultural Affairs
- Participatory budgeting
- Access and conversations around policy
- Involve police department and other community engagement orgs into the arts.
- “Engaging citizens in participatory art expands creativity, empathy, and empowers individuals”

**More equitable distribution of venues/events/space/support throughout neighborhoods and boroughs, strong focus on underserved areas and on small organizations and emerging artists – *Frequency: medium***

- People have to come all the way to Manhattan from other borough to experience art
- Specific neighborhoods/areas mentioned: Uptown, Harlem, Washington Heights, and Inwood, Central Harlem, North Manhattan
- Artist studios in the upper east side and upper west side
- “Every borough should have a museum mile” – Harlem Resident
- More funding for micro organizations with capital funding and capacity building to elevate from micro to mid-level.
- Ground up peer nominations-system for providing emerging artists with empty spaces
- It is easier for larger institutions to get noticed, to get support, and to get access funding

- Free studio spaces for emerging artists (5-10 year grace period)

**More transparency on funding** – *Frequency: low*

**More diversity. Ensure that diversity is represented in arts & culture institutions, and encourage programming that caters to local communities, embraces diversity, and makes people feel welcomed and included** – *Frequency: medium*

- Inclusive programming, programming for the community, and art that is reflective of the community.
- “Need to show different communities-make them feel like this is their city too.” – Alicia, Artist
- Tackle hiring choices to increase diversity. Improve diversity among administrative staff in cultural organizations.
- “Populations filled with many talented people don’t have enough representation and platforms to showcase their talent”- large pad

**High prices are a barrier for access to cultural events** – *Frequency: low*

- Provide enough funding so free events can be generated
- Make memberships less expensive

**Encourage organizations to work together. Create a network where they support each other** – *Frequency: low*

- Partnerships between small and large organizations. More stable organizations helping smaller organizations.
- Non-profits are un-sustainable.

**Advertise events, share information on what is going on** – *Frequency: medium*

- More encouraging ads for children and families to attend cultural events outside of their immediate environment
- Cultural ambassadors
- A portal to share information
- More funding for marketing

## **SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT**

**Use arts and culture as a means to bring people together, fight for social justice, and create healthy communities and individuals** – *Frequency: medium*

- A New York project where artists can work with immigrants to welcome them, improve literacy, create community, and co-tell their stories via art, theater, music.
- Improve mental health by engaging in art activities.
- Artists could add installations to dangerous intersections and or streets
- Conduct studies that analyze art and culture’s effects on health and communities
- Use public art to raise awareness
- “There is no arts and culture without the people who create it. People are what makes each place unique.” – East Village resident

## AFFORDABILITY

Urgent need for affordable adequate work/present space – *Frequency: high*

- Space considerations:
  - Can be small, critical and radical
  - Centrally located
  - Collective space where resources are shared (costumes, equipment, etc.)
- Partner with large institutions that can offer unused space to local artists/public use

Cost of living is a challenge for most artists – *Frequency: low*

- Difficulty of getting a mortgage when your income comes from many sources
- Market rate apartment are unaffordable, even rent stabilized, started at market rate
- Very few artists live in Manhattan because cost makes it impossible
- Affordable housing for artists

Need more funding for the arts and support organizations and individual artists in getting funds and access to benefits – *Frequency: high*

- Lack of motivation by government to force/encourage more private funding for arts
- Use corporate funding for the arts
- In Spain, bonuses are required to donate a small percentage of their earning to that arts. The results are communities bursting with funded art spaces!- good model
- Improve access to information (grants, insurance, funds, etc.)
- Help organizations understand what they qualify for
- Resources to help artists consider public art processes
- Training for arts administration
- Access to benefits: Retirement, healthcare, insurance
  - A benefits structure that will support artists' families as well
- Paid internships and fellowships
- More arts jobs with decent salaries and full benefits
- Pay artists for their contributions instead asking for volunteer assignments.
- re-evaluate distribution structure, limited by set of rules that need to be changed/ Change the funding formula
- Support general operating expenses
- Minimum fundraising cut-offs are so high that smaller asks are not viable (capital unit DCLA)
- Help artists find housing

## ARTS EDUCATION

Arts Education is a crucial aspect of a child's personal development – *Frequency: low*

- “Going to the symphony as a kid opened my eyes to another world that I would never have seen.”- Ruth, Parent
- Young people need to see themselves in art- be inspired-find themselves and their aspirations
- Arts education should provide personal development & inspiration for youth
- Inspire inquiry and self-awareness

**There is a need for stronger, more comprehensive arts and culture programs in school curriculums throughout the city – *Frequency: high***

- Include Art History
- Darkrooms
- Incorporate nature
- “we must make arts a norm subject not a luxury” – Jacqlene, Parent
- Lower income schools have fewer art resources.

**Partner with cultural institutions to increase access to arts and culture for students – *Frequency: low***

- Free access to cultural orgs for NYC k-12 public schools
- Encourage institutions (public/commercial) to open doors to students
- Provide funding and transportation for kids to access elite institutions

**Prepare and support students who want to pursue a career in the arts – *Frequency: low***

- A pipeline program for our next cultural leaders.
- Forums for youth development
- Increase education about opportunities in the arts. Information on jobs that are present. Information about what culture is.

**There is a need for better trained and better paid art teachers – *Frequency: low***

- Partner with local artists to teach in schools

## **ART IN THE PUBLIC SPACE**

**Use public parks to showcase art – *Frequency: low***

- Use parks to feature not just sculpture and music but theater and other culture shows
- Host community events-not just on stages but on the lawns too.
- Presence of nature. Access to nature is important to healthy arts and cultural production.

**More accountability on % for art program – *Frequency: low***

**Turn unused space in the city into public space and/or public art display – *Frequency: low***

- Parking lots, abandoned theaters, abandoned storefronts

## **CITYWIDE COORDINATION**

**More collaboration between city agencies – *Frequency: low***

- DOE: share resources and facilities
- NYCHA: art residencies, art programs, share facilities

## **NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER**

**The presence of artists contributes to gentrification. Mitigate the impact of gentrification, and help artists remain in their neighborhoods – *Frequency: high***

- Neighborhood arts alliance
- Partner with developers and encourage them to include space for artists and arts/culture spaces for the community in their project
- Cooperative community land trust
- Affordable housing, rent control, subsidies
- Encourage collaboration between old and new residents/organizations
- Reinforce existing arts structures and organizations
- Protect small businesses through "legacy" model
- We need a cultural impact study for new developments

**Preservation of NYC's historic fabric/physical character – *Frequency: low***

- The protection and promotion of NYC's historical and cultural museums and neighborhoods before they are exploited and destroyed by private interest and commercialism.
- In danger now: South street seaport museum, ships, port and neighborhood

**Threats to neighborhood character – *Frequency: low***

- Zoning/re-zoning
- Universities. (like NYU and Columbia, where facilities are not open to public use)

# STATEN ISLAND BOROUGH WORKSHOP

## REPORTBACK

### I. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS PER ISSUE

*INFO: From Question Canvas, Issue Areas Poster, Note taker Template, Large pad Discussion, Represent Your Community*

#### EQUITY

**Programs and access for disadvantaged/underserved populations – *Frequency: medium***

- People with disabilities, autistic, dementia, recent immigrants, underserved neighborhoods, teens, rehabilitation from drugs
- Funding for conversion of old buildings for ADA compliance
- Sensory specific needs

**There is a need for a less conservative approach to arts and culture. One that encourages diversity by bringing people together, making them feel included. One that supports small grassroots projects and promotes culture for ALL – *Frequency: high***

- Museum collections favor old white men. Need for collection to better reflect demographic of SI today. Art/events/programming should reflect residents.
- The general population feels excluded from the arts
- No cross-pollination between groups on the island
- Diversity in leadership
- More community festivals that promote traditions
- Emphasis on the Sri Lankan community

**Create partnerships between large and small institutions that connect the arts across Staten Island neighborhoods and across boroughs in NYC – *Frequency: medium***

- Encourage high capacity organizations to create programs in different communities in partnership with smaller organizations.
- Create a network of SI arts and culture organizations
- Encourage partnerships through grants
- Work with “local orgs and artists-they are the boots on the ground” – Issue areas poster
- “The multiculturalism that exists in SI is not acknowledged!” – note taker template

**There is a need for more funding, support, and resources that are more equitably distributed across neighborhoods and boroughs. Special focus in underserved neighborhoods, and struggling sectors of the arts – *Frequency: high***

- Non CIG institutions get less funds in terms of support

- Huge divide between north shore and south shore
- “Have the economic impact go beyond Snug Harbor”. Look to other neighborhoods other than St. George and Stapleton
- Outer boroughs don’t get enough funding
- Performing arts in particular struggle on SI

**More participation and community engagement in decision making – *Frequency: low***

- How do you identify the people who are not at the table?

## **ACCESS**

**There is a need for better communication of information. People want to be aware of events and programming and artists want support in advertising their work – *Frequency: high***

- Use social media to spread information
- Use ferry for promotion
- Print advertising is good for targeting the senior population
- There is a need for advertising Staten island in the other boroughs. The city should help promote events citywide.
- Train young artists in marketing techniques
- Use LinkNYC to promote cultural events
- "There is plenty to do in the island!" note taker template
- Mapping of assets (non-profits, profits, districts, libraries)
- A monthly list of what is going on
- System of tour guides to make it more visible/ attract more tourists
- Use signage to promote art and culture in roads
- Promote SI through other organizations in the city (Lincoln Center, NY Public Library, Parks, community centers, etc.)
- A central newspaper/magazine
- Live events page with more info
- Digital database where everyone can contribute / a centralized place with information
- A Staten Island cultural passport
- Support artists in presenting in public space for advertising

**Transportation is a huge barrier for access – *Frequency: high***

- Bad signage on roads
- Tolls are an issue
- Commutes for artists are very long
- MTA is not very effective. Limited location for refilling metro card
- South shore in particular has major transportation issues
- Too much traffic
- Indirect routes for buses to important areas
- “Walkable, bikeable, drivable!” issue areas poster
- “Arts cannot survive without transportation”
- Weekend transportation is a nightmare

- There is potential along the train stations
- Create a trolley system
- More parking/ free parking
- Bike routes
- MTA Taxis

## **SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT**

**Arts should be used to strengthen/enrich/build communities – *Frequency: low***

- “Use arts to bring people together”
- Encourage inter-generational activities
- Great art teaches empathy, evocates, helps understand others

**Arts should be valued as an integral part of society and as an important part of the economy –**

*Frequency: low*

- “Arts impact the local economy -- Should be treated as part of the economical ecosystem” Note taker template
- Educate SI residents on the value of arts
- The negative pre-conceived notion that art is extra, not important. It is a hobby-allows people to disregard it
- People who have cultural knowledge are often overlooked
- The city needs to think of cultural funding as investments
- arts need to be woven into our everyday life

## **AFFORDABILITY**

**Artists need support in accessing affordable live/work/present space and working supplies – –**

*Frequency: high*

- Lack of art supply stores in SI
- Lack of small apartments for single artists
- SI lacks many places for artists to congregate
- Public spaces can be used in a collaborative fashion
- There are many available buildings-now would be a good time to secure + stabilize studios-work space is a priority
- Coop type of situation for artists to live
- Experimental spaces / collaborative
- Long term leases to maintain a stable rate
- Partner with schools and other public institutions to share space
- The mall could be a good venue to present art (everyone goes there by default)
- More gathering/Cultural Spaces
- More Music venues

### **More funding and support artists and organizations in accessing funding/jobs – *Frequency: high***

- Clarity in accessing funding that already exists
- Artists should be subsidized
- Increase training, promotion of arts administrative work
- Artists or creative job seekers must go off island. Creative sector is limited on SI.
- Invest in creating jobs. Especially in existing institutions that are understaffed.
- CUNY cultural corp. as ex: but give interns access to private institutions too.
- Cultural Corp for continuing Ed. You are not in school but you are a struggling artist looking to develop skills through paid training
- Easier processes to access funding

### **ARTS EDUCATION**

#### **Arts should be fully integrated into school curriculums as an integral part of education. Art programs should be stronger/come comprehensive – *Frequency: high***

- Fieldtrips (where parents don't need to pay)
- History + arts of the borough
- More informal spaces for art education
- Arts taught through STEAM
- "Move away from the idea that arts education is just for special occasions" note taker template
- DOE doesn't treat art as something important

#### **Better trained and paid art teachers – *Frequency: low***

- Art teachers should be trained for interdisciplinary instruction
- Partner with artists to teach in schools
- Partner with Institutions (ex: Staten Island Museum). Resources, capacity and intellectual/institutional knowledge

#### **Support students who want to pursue a career in the arts – *Frequency: low***

- "Will you pursue arts and cultural options after high school if there are no options?"
- Hands on skills (sewing, crafts, etc.) can lead to careers with real jobs
- Create a pipeline through mentorship programs
- "Making people aware that art is a job"

### **ART IN THE PUBLIC SPACE**

#### **Public art should be more democratic – *Frequency: low***

- More public input on planning of public art
- Improve access to % for art program (it feels like an insider club)

#### **More public space and public art – *Frequency: low***

- Community space
- Green space / gardens

## CITYWIDE COORDINATION

Improved coordination between city agencies – *Frequency: low*

- DCP: Mindful of cultural institutions when planning
- DOT: improve transportation to/from cultural institutions in SI - future routes should take into account cultural destinations
- NYCHA: Affordable cultural spaces
- Parks Department

## NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER

Help artists keep their space. Protect them from possible gentrification. Support small local businesses and organizations. Integrate art/culture in planning new development – *Frequency: medium*

- Need designated arts districts
- Need mechanisms for artists to keep their space
- More apartments are being built and people are getting priced out
- Protect DIY venues on SI
- Integrate small businesses and arts and culture
- Partner with developers
- Incentives to protect small businesses/ mom & pop shops
- Conduct cultural impact studies alongside environmental impact analysis
- Reach out to landlords who own empty space to lend space to artists
- Employ Locals

Historic preservation and aesthetic standards are needed to control new development. The built environment should reflect a Staten Island identity – *Frequency: medium*

- How do we determine neighborhood character? Who decides?
- Protect views/ existing shops/ old times from new developers
- Developers are tearing down old houses and replacing them with houses that are not well built
- “There is not a look at the past, so new things are not "good design" like in other places like Brooklyn --> we need a design aesthetic. Proportions etc...”
- Zoning needs to be tweaked with design parameters, and the artist community can help.
- Main Street grants are good, but they are very hard to get
- each individual neighborhood should have an artwork that identifies it
- Local artists can add flavor to new developments
- Design contests to raise the level of design
- Landmarks (plaques)
- Preserve SI uniqueness

**Concerns about the negative/positive impacts of gentrification – *Frequency: low***

- “Gentrification or..... crime.....?”
- Double edge sword - Awesome but it lost its soul
- Community first and tourism second

# BRONX BOROUGH WORKSHOP

## REPORTBACK

### I. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS PER ISSUE

*INFO: From Question Canvas, Issue Areas Poster, Note taker Template, Large pad Discussion, Represent Your Community*

#### EQUITY

**More funding and a more equitable distribution of funds across boroughs and neighborhoods, with a strong focus on support for small/new/grassroots organizations – *Frequency: high***

- Orgs that are underfunded but are doing work within their communities and for their communities
- Consistent, sustainable funding
- Bronx has been neglected in funding for arts and cultural sector. Everything is too Manhattan centric
- Not only CIGs need money
- Organizations mentioned: Casita Maria, points, laundromat project, Kelly garden,
- Have representatives of small organizations at DCLA

**More support and programming for underserved/disadvantaged populations – *Frequency: high***

- Communities mentioned: immigrants, youth, lower income, senior, homeless, toddlers, Albanians, minorities, dementia, autism, NYCHA residents
- “As federal landscapes shift and certain populations become increasingly targeted. I would invest in celebratory and educational arts and cultural programming focused on undocumented Arab and Muslim cultures to foster inclusion.”
- Translation to all languages (support translating website content)
- Accessible material for blind and low vision (websites, travel information, etc.)
- Youth council
- Albanians are the only community that does not have any cultural house.
- MTA-disability issues
- Training to educate artists on how to work with persons with disabilities

**More public participation in decision making, encouraging a conversation between a diverse groups of people – *Frequency: low***

- Get other communities in the room
- Have conversations with the locals who have been doing the work all these years

**Create a cohesive network / coalition / strategic partnerships between cultural organizations for support – *Frequency: medium***

- All cultural institutions that receive city funding should be a part of a coalition
- Partnerships with libraries, parks, schools,
- Zoo/Botanical garden should be together
- “jazz at the zoo” to support local artists
- A place for organizations to come together
- Annual conference
- Cross pollination! between large and small orgs
- Small organizations need to unite and share space to sustain/ survive

**Equitable support for all sectors in arts and culture, with a focus on non-conventional practices –**

*Frequency: low*

- Practices mentioned: dance, non-traditional sports, non-academic art forms, food, clothing, botanicals, bodegas, carts, science programming, ice skating, lacrosse, hockey

**Foster stronger relationships between cultural institutions and local communities by reaching out and providing culturally relevant programming. Encourage diversity through programming that celebrates different cultures and traditions and through promoting diversity within cultural organizations –**

*Frequency: high*

- Citywide program to build local workforce pipeline for cultural organizations to help build diversity across the sector.
- More variety in programming
- Better training for program staff to engage with community
- Encourage programming that is reflective of the local community
- It’s important to provide events and workshops that connect to the backgrounds of residents.
- Programs to capture local histories of the Bronx, and to make it accessible to all the Bronx
- It is very important to connect to community organizers that know what the neighborhoods need
- NYBG Frida Kahlo exhibition brought in many more Hispanic residents in the community
- Bring Cultural activities to different neighborhoods. Bring culture to the people. Ex: AMNH, Columbia university “Science in the hood”
- Use hip-hop to inspire. Hip-hop speaks on identity and culture.
- No one size fits all solutions- needs to be locally rooted

**ACCESS**

**Transportation is a major barrier in accessing cultural events in the Bronx – *Frequency: high***

- Citi bikes in the Bronx (people want them but community boards seem to be against them?)
- Bike paths
- Price of transportation in Bronx is too expensive (MTA)
- Weekend transportation is difficult

- Public transportation is not available in every neighborhood. Hard to travel across Bronx
- Work with MTA to coordinate transportation between cultural institutions
- Paying tolls is a problem

**More affordable/free programming – *Frequency: medium***

- Affordable programs for kids
- AMNH program to bring NYCHA residents
- Free admissions for school children
- IDNYC helps, but depends on institution
- Free childcare
- When it is free it is very crowded
- Coupons on one institution to go to another
- Subsidize memberships
- Make Broadway cheaper

**Better advertisement of cultural institutions/programming in the Bronx for local residents and outsiders. Better communication of information to bring in new people to “less traveled” places in the Bronx – *Frequency: high***

- Audio tours
- Outreach! Outreach!
- Advertisements mailed to everyone in NYC letting them know what's going on elsewhere
- Print the information and give to students in schools to take to parents
- Bronx Trolley – more advertising. Trolley night. Expansion.
- Use website of cultural institutions to promote one another / organizations tagging each other
- Bronx Tourism Bureau, tourist guide
- Culture trail, cultural map, info kiosk
- Social media
- Networking events
- Data management. Inclusive info hub! With different activities and all relevant information (transportation, childcare, etc.)
- Bus shelters audio tours about local community / music

**There is a lack of healthy food in some sectors of the Bronx. There should be programs that encourage affordable healthy eating – *Frequency: low***

- More connections between local food and stores
- The botanical garden does a great job of taking all plants and showing them that they can be vegetables
- 1 garden feeds 150 families off Melrose lost to housing development

**Even with free admission and ease of access people don't attend cultural institutions – *Frequency: low***

- Many do not have the time to engage in cultural activities.
- Lack of interest
- Libraries exist but nobody uses them

**Lack of Cultural spaces / activities year round – *Frequency: low***

- Portable winter theaters

**Safety (perception of safety) stops many from exploring all opportunities in the Bronx – *Frequency: medium***

- Need to show beauty in the Bronx! more positive imagery in local news / programming
- More security 24 hrs. / more lighting
- Change public perception of the Bronx from inside out
- I love the Bronx
- More police presence (double edge sword)

## **SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT**

**Encourage arts as a tool for personal development – *Frequency: low***

- Socio-emotional development through writing programs
- Self-discovery through language arts
- Art as therapy
- Arts for creative problem solving and critical thinking

**Arts and culture are a means to bring people together, foster healthy communities and fight for social justice – *Frequency: medium***

- ARTS IS A PATH TO PEACE
- More YMCAs or other places where you can get to know your neighbors
- Artists want to give back to the community
- Undoing racism
- Artists as first responders
- Cultural institutions as agents of change
- “did a program that connected me to older men through our drumming passion- taught value system and moved kids from place to place”
- Technology can be a hindrance, people today experience everything through their phones. Concerts used to gather people, today people only want to take the photo/video. People need to interact directly with reality.
- Art helps in understanding different cultures, fosters inclusion

**Expand the definition of art to include more people, encourage participation, and increase awareness on the importance of art – *Frequency: low***

- Recognizing the value of art to access funds
- “The arts belong in every one. We are all artist” – Belmont Resident
- Going to performing arts centers is central. Ensure that adults continue to understand the value of culture

## **AFFORDABILITY**

**There is a need for more funding and support for arts and culture. There should be a change in policy that allows more budget for the arts, support for different financial structures that provide funding. More paid opportunities, support in professional development, and help in accessing funds –**

*Frequency: high*

- Provide at least 2% of the city’s budget to cultural inst.
- More equitable grant giving
- Bridge loans
- A community fund for neighborhoods to self-organize and host seasonal events with local artists and residents
- Funding should focus on the process of making art, not on the finished product
- Encourage public-private partnerships
- Paid internships
- *Arterpreneurs*
- Better paying jobs
- Public funding for living wages and union jobs
- Corporate sponsorships
- More noncompetitive funding
- Multi-year grants for artists
- Financial literacy for artists
- General operating support
- Art to be recognized as a legitimate career
- Museums to hire artists
- Unionized artists

**Rent is too high. Support artists and cultural organizations in accessing live/work/perform space.**

**Partner with organizations that can provide unused space for artists – *Frequency: high***

- Rent control for artists
- Coop spaces for artists
- Stipends for live/work space
- Model from private sector: hared studios/ performance space / workspace for multiple orgs
- Artist residencies
- Schools and YMCA working as spaces for artists
- Partner with libraries

- Independent entrepreneurial spaces

## ARTS EDUCATION

**There is a need for better trained, better paid teachers. More funding and partnerships with artists and cultural organizations to support art programs in schools – *Frequency: high***

- Artists - go to schools and show art / experiences, living artist, not just a teacher
- How do we make curriculum reflect diversity
- Encourage people to be teaching artists
- More funding for training teachers
- Teaching artist program at Lincoln Center
- Cultural institutions = living classrooms
- Relatable teachers
- Pay teachers to plan over summer

**Need an inclusive and comprehensive, better funded, art and culture program fully integrated into the curriculum in schools across all boroughs – *Frequency: high***

- Integrate arts and science
- Art needs to be in schools, and needs to be taken more seriously. All efforts go to remedial test prep.
- How can we measure the value of arts education?
- Lack of knowledge of what a good arts program is
- Teach non-conventional arts: crocheting, knitting, sewing, meditation, crafts, botany, graphic design, gardening, art history, diverse + experimental programs, coding, programing
- Program should reflect diversity. Indigenous cultures
- Support in creating curriculums and implementing programs
- "if you limit their exposure, you limit their opportunities"
- Equity and diversity
- Interactive fieldtrips
- Afterschool programs

**Expose children to art at a young age and support their artistic development throughout – *Frequency: low***

- Launch next generation of cultural stakeholders + professionals working in the arts.
- Professional development
- cultural arts and education for parents
- Educate young people for entry into the world of work by stroking their curiosity and passion to realize their academic artistic + world citizen potential.
- "How do I get my students to see the value + importance of art in their lives?" – Ron
- Arts and crafts for parents so they can teach their kids

## ART IN THE PUBLIC SPACE

Lack of public art in the Bronx. More public art in public spaces. Make use of underutilized spaces to bring art and promote activities in parks, streets and open spaces. Special focus on green spaces –

*Frequency: high*

- Public art projects in public bldgs.
- Murals!
- Bring work/programs outside into the public / open spaces
- Underutilized greenspace that could be platforms for art and culture
- City has done a good job with farmers markets. City should replicate this with the arts
- Casitas: Art Combined with nature / plants
- Need to bring kids to our natural environment
- Maker fair in Queens!
- Arts program in MTA. Art in subway
- More green space and open space
- Community gardens, farmers markets, seed exchange program, teaching kids how to plan, tech sustainability!
- Where are the areas of congregation? Place art there
- Beautify the concourse
- More casual/communal spaces
- Learn from other community organizations to see how they've activated places

More accountability for % for arts program – 1

## CITYWIDE COORDINATION

DCLA should communicate with all city agencies to support and promote the arts – *Frequency: medium*

- Agencies Mentioned:
  - DOT
  - DCP
  - EDC
  - NYCHA: provide professional development to NYCHA leaders

Work to surmount barriers posed by current national administration – *Frequency: low*

- Gov. Funds are limited - and could be even less under new admin.

## NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER

Gentrification is coming to the Bronx. Help prevent displacement and loss of neighborhood character (cultural identity) by creating policy that limits development, by partnering with developers to encourage less aggressive neighborhood change, and by supporting communities in controlling development in their neighborhoods – *Frequency: high*

- Use historic districts to prevent gentrification
- Engage/partner with developers
- Require % of low income / community space / cultural space. Include artists in new housing developments
- Give priority to Bronx artists
- Hold new businesses and developers accountable
- Community controlled developers
- "Community controlled development"
- Preservation for arts and culture. Preservation of the intangible, not just the built environment. Dances, languages, etc.
- Please identify a comprehensive practice approach to preserve our historic landmarks and churches. Preserve old character before developers change it
- Rezoning
- Neighborhood studies. Cultural impact studies
- Business improvement districts

Concerns about development as a double edge sword. Stopping it can cause harm, but protect existing residents. Encouraging it can have terrible consequences, but growth is still needed – *Frequency: low*

- Artists are the first gentrifies! But they are poor too! they are adventurers
- Historic preservation preserves historical space, but forces community from growing how it want to grow
- Sometimes harms community growth. Sometimes development is positive and useful for the community